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THE PLANT CONTENTS OF TWO MOUSE STOREHOUSES¹

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WHILE turning sticks and logs in search of salamanders, the writer has twice in this vicinity uncovered the autumn storehouse of a mouse. Both of these stores were in damp, unpastured oak woods—the kind of woods in which salamanders and frogs abound.

I cannot say with certainty to what species of mouse these caches belonged. From the type of habitat it is fair to assume that they belonged to the deer mouse *Peromyscus leucopus noveboracensis*. The literature, however, assigns the type of stored food to *Microtus*. In hunting salamanders we not infrequently uncover a nest of *Peromyscus*, and have several times collected the partly grown young and raised them, making identification certain; but we have never found a nest of any other species in this type of woods.

The first storehouse was found in an oak woods in Freedom Township, Washtenaw County, about 15 miles from Ann Arbor, on November 19, 1922. This storehouse contained about one pint of tubers, rhizomes and seeds, mainly of three kinds, and two or three hickory nuts. Most of the material was saved for feeding some wild mice that were being kept in cages but a small amount was planted in the greenhouse for identification.

The bulk of the store was composed of the spindle-shaped, yellow tubers of the pepper-root, *Dentaria laciniata* Muhl. The species was determined later from the growing plants. Among the pepper-roots were numerous rootstocks of a violet, determined as *Viola sororia* Willd., and some "hog peanuts," the large, flattened, underground

¹ Paper from the Department of Botany of the University of Michigan, No. 523.

Pods of *Amphicarpa monoica* (L.) Ell. Though they were not noticed before planting, there must have been present some tubers of the spring beauty, *Claytonia virginica* L., for this species came up in the flats. These tubers are very similar in size and color to the underground seed pods of *Amphicarpa*, and probably escaped notice among them.

The second storehouse was found under a log in an oak woods of White Oak Township, Ingham County, about 35 miles from Ann Arbor, on November 10, 1929. Like the first storehouse, this one contained about a pint of material. In addition to the rhizomes and underground seeds there were a few pieces of acorns (which may have been accidentally collected in scooping up the contents of the store) and about 60 pieces of stem, one to three inches long, apparently from the runners of some plant, perhaps a violet.

The rhizomes of a violet (species not determined) composed about half of the store. "Hog peanuts," the underground pods of *Amphicarpa monoica*, occupied about half as much space as the violets. The other quarter of the store consisted of five large rhizomes of *Geranium maculatum* L., 4 unidentified bulbs (that failed to grow), apparently liliaceous, and one single unidentified tuber of a different kind.

The two stores were alike in containing *Viola* and *Amphicarpa* in quantities. One had predominantly these two species, and lacked *Dentaria*; in the other, *Dentaria* far outbulked the other species. It is not known whether *Dentaria laciniata* is abundant in the woods where the nest lacking it was found.

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A NEW MOSS FLORA, WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR.¹—For many years Father Dupret has been known as an enthusiastic bryologist. Since his death his many valuable notes have been collated and edited for publication by a younger associate of his in the Society of Saint-Sulpice, Father Alderic Beaulac. The result is a pamphlet of convenient size which ought to be of great help to moss students in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States as well.

The descriptions and appreciations of the different species show that Father Dupret knew and loved them as friends, as well as feeling a deep scientific interest in their characteristics. Thus he writes of *Grimmia Dupreti*, one of his discoveries, "Gathered at Oka, and a few neighboring places only, on the worn sandstones of the stone walls of this region. It

¹ Contributions du Laboratoire de Botanique de l'Université de Montréal, No. 25. *Études sur les Mousses de la région de Montréal*. Par H. Dupret. viii + 70 pages, 4 figures. 1934, \$0.75.